(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Punjab National Bank have reported that there is no inordinate delay in making such payments. The Bank have further reported that their Naugaonkhal, Pauri Garhwal, U.P. Branch did not refuse to make payment to genuine persons.

(c) to (e) Recently a complaint addressed by a Member of Parliament on behalf of one person was received. This claim case has been settled on 16.3.2000 on the basis of Succession Certificate produced by the claimant.

Seizure of Heroin

3278. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether biggest seizure of heroin has been reported in December, 1999;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken against those involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The biggest seizure of heroin during the last two years has been reported in December, 1999.

(b) On the intervening night of 21st/22nd December, 1999 officers of Narcotics Control Bureau, Delhi Zonal Unit intercepted a truck on National Highway No. 8 near Delhi. 77 packets containing 77 kgs. of heroin were recovered from the truck. The packets bore Pakistani markings.

(c) Three Afghans, two Pakistanis and three Indians were arrested in this connection. All the arrested persons are liable to be prosecuted under the stringent provisions of NDPS Act, 1985.

Duping of Investors by M/s. Perutek Services

3279. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that recently M/s. Perutek Services Ltd., M-4 Chiranjiv Tower, Nehru Place, New Delhi, (a Pvt. Agro-based NBFC)

has duped thousands of investors in the form of fixed deposits running into crores by closing all its offices across the country in September, 1998; and

(b) if so, whether Finance Ministry, RBI and other Government agencies have been informed of the incident and if so, the action taken/being taken by Government to trace the company and return the hard- earned money of its investors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), which regulates collective investment schemes (CIS), *vide* its press release dated November 26, 1997 and its public notice dated December 18, 1997, directed existing schemes to file the details of their schemes with SEBI. According to information filed by M/s. Perutek Services Ltd., it had collected a sum of Rs. 1.897 crores from investors. Further, according to the information collected by SEBI, the company closed its offices sometime in early October 1998.

SEBI's letter dated December 10, 1999, asking M/s. Perutek Services Ltd. to apply for registration or to take steps for winding up of their schemes to repay their existing investors, and letter dated December 29, 1999 advising them to wind up their schemes to repay their investors, as also investors grievances forwarded to the entity were returned un-delivered.

M/s. Perutek Services Ltd. is a respondent in a writ petition filed in the Delhi High Court. The Court has *inter-alia*, restrained them from selling, disposing of and/or alienating their immovable properties or parting with the possession of the same. Their directors have also been interdicted from transferring their immovable properties in any manner whatsoever. The Court also made it clear that its order will not come in the way of companies intending to refund the money to their investors.

Corruption case against Additional Commissioner income Tax M.P.

3280. MISS FRIDA TOPNO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of corruption, malpractices and harassment to officials of the rank of inspectors by Additional Commissioner of Income Tax, M.P. has come to the notice of CBDT;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;